

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are canceled. Claims 24-30 were examined, and new claims 31-32 are added. No new matter is added thereby.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 24-30 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Washburn, et al. (US 6,500,122). Claim 31 was objected to but deemed allowable if amended to incorporate base and intervening claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 23-30, including independent claim 23.

Independent claim 23 recites a table of transmit sequences and transmit levels where at least two transmit levels are associated with one of the transmit sequences and a processor operable to select one of the transmit levels and sequences in response to a single input from a user input control where the single input is for adjusting a transmit level for contrast agent response.

Washburn, et al. do not disclose these limitations. First, Washburn, et al. disclose B-mode and color flow imaging (col. 8, lines 8-29), but not a contrast agent response.

Second, Washburn, et al. provide different sets of sequences and levels for the two different types (B-mode and color flow) of imaging (col. 6, lines 53-55). Different imaging parameters may be selected for different color flow region of interest (ROI) positions (col. 10, lines 34-46). Washburn, et al. select in response to an input for type of imaging and/or ROI position. Washburn, et al. do not select in response to a user input for setting a transmit level.

Dependent claims 24-30 depend from the independent claim 23, so are allowable for the same reasons. Further limitations patentably distinguish from Washburn, et al.

Claim 28 recites measuring the contrast agent response and selecting in response to the measure. Washburn, et al. respond to user input, but do not measure a response and set in response to the measure.

Claim 30 recites interpulse amplitude modulation. Washburn, et al. do not provide such sequences.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 5-16-08